

Coins

'50s silver certificates not worth saving

By Roger Boye

HERE ARE the answers to some more questions on coins and currency.

Q—I have several \$1 silver certificate bills made in the 1950s. Is there any extra value to them?—D. E., Three Oaks, Mich.

A—Most \$1 silver certificates made in the 1950s are rather common among collectors although the bills are rarely seen in circulation. For example, dealers sell \$1 silver certificates of series 1957, 1957-A, or 1957-B for \$2 or \$3 in uncirculated condition. Of course, circulated specimens of these bills are worth even less, and

torn or excessively soiled bills usually have no collector value.

The government has not printed silver certificates since 1963.

Q—Recently my wife got an unusual 1977-D penny at the grocery store. Simply stated, the backside design is out of alignment in relation to the front design. Is our coin a collector's item?—S.A., Schiller Park.

A—Normally, the front and backside designs on the Lincoln cent are upside-down from each other. However, sometimes the steel dies used to

make coins become loose and turn while on the coin press, resulting in coins that have misaligned designs. Collectors call such coins "rotated dies."

Coins with a design rotation of 15 degrees or less are not a collector's item, said coin error expert Alan Herbert in "The Official Guide to Mint Errors." Modern-day Lincoln cents with a rotation of more than 15 degrees are worth saving, and 1977 cents with a rotation of from 90 to 180 degrees could be worth as much as \$1.50 or \$2 to a collector, Herbert said. Values of error coins are difficult to estimate because few people collect such coins.